

# State Heritage Areas of South Australia



## Cockenzie House

13 Admiral Terrace, Goolwa

SHR 11663 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 23 November 1989

Cockenzie House, a substantial limestone residence on a commanding position overlooking the Goolwa Channel, is associated with Captain George Bain Johnston, one of the earliest captains involved in the River Murray trade.

The name 'Cockenzie' comes from Johnston's native village in Scotland. Johnston and Francis Cadell, whose family lived in Scotland's Cockenzie House, recruited a group of local sailors from the Cockenzie and Port Seton area to join them in South Australia. (Cadell successfully navigated the *Lady Augusta* through the Murray Mouth and to the Darling junction in 1853, thereby answering Governor Young's challenge to prove the Murray as a commercial waterway.)



*A view of 'Cockenzie' at Goolwa with members of the Johnston family on the verandah 1880  
Photo B 18863: State Library of SA*

Johnston played an important part in the growth of the river trade, but he also had a significant and more direct role in the development of Goolwa. He purchased several allotments in the 'Goolwa Extension', and built the cottages known as '[Little Scotland](#)' for his riverboat workmen. In 1857 he purchased the allotment on which Cockenzie House is situated, and it is thought that the residence was built shortly afterwards.



*'Cockenzie' House, Admiral Terrace Goolwa, March 2005*



*Side view of 'Cockenzie', overlooking the River and Hindmarsh Island Bridge, March 2005*

***Strong connections still exist between Cockenzie & Port Seton in Scotland and the town of Goolwa, including communication between primary students in both places. In August 2002 a green area created during the building of a new housing development in Cockenzie (Scotland) was officially named Goolwa Park as part of the celebrations to mark Goolwa's 150th anniversary.***

